



July 28, 2020

Honourable Navdeep Bains  
Minister of Innovation, Science and Industry  
C.D. Howe Building  
235 Queen Street  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0H5

Re: Investment in Rural Broadband Infrastructure

Dear Honourable Navdeep Bains:

On behalf of the residents and businesses of the Town of Mono, I want to add my voice to that of Ontario Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Honourable Steve Clark, in reminding your government of the importance of bringing high speed Internet to rural areas. Without reliable Internet access, businesses and residents are being left behind, furthering the digital divide between rural and urban centres.

The COVID-19 pandemic has only revealed deeper issues with Internet access in rural communities as businesses, students and teachers struggled with unreliable Internet. Rural residents are concerned that limited access is preventing their children from accessing remote learning tools and is leaving them behind in their education. It is hampering economic growth and limiting businesses' ability to recover from the pandemic.

Building the infrastructure needed to address these concerns will take a concerted effort by all levels of government. The Town of Mono, as a lower tier Ontario municipality, has been working on the issue for a number of years as has the upper tier County of Dufferin, including investing in the Southwestern Integrated Fibre Technology (SWIFT) initiative.

The need for immediate action has never been greater. We are encouraged by the Province of Ontario's commitment to invest a further \$315 million in the Broadband and Cellular Action Plan. The Town of Mono urges your government to take urgent action to provide immediate funding to build the infrastructure needed to ensure reliable broadband service in rural and underserved areas in Ontario.

Regards,

**TOWN OF MONO**

Laura Ryan  
Mayor

Copies:

Honourable Catherine McKenna, Minister of Infrastructure and Communities  
Honourable Maryam Monsef, Minister of Rural Economic Development  
Honourable Ahmed Hussen, Minister of Families, Children and Social Development  
Honourable Kyle Seebach, MP Dufferin-Caledon, Ontario  
Honourable Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Ontario  
Honourable Laurie Scott, Minister of Infrastructure, Ontario  
Honourable Sylvia Jones, MPP Dufferin-Caledon, Ontario; Solicitor General, Ontario  
All Ontario Municipalities (via email)

## **Diversity Training Program**

Town of Orangeville Resolution 2020-194, passed June 8, 2020

*Moved by Mayor Brown, Seconded by Deputy Mayor Macintosh*

*WHEREAS The Town of Orangeville recognizes there have been questions in the public related to both diversity training and use of force training and protocols for Police Services, including in Ontario;*

*WHEREAS the Town recognizes that police officers join this profession out of a desire to do good, to serve and to protect the communities they serve;*

*AND WHEREAS an understanding of community diversity can foster authentic inclusion;*

*AND WHEREAS empathy training, and de-escalation training, can support understanding other people's perspectives;*

*AND WHEREAS the Town recognizes that policing can be a dangerous profession, and officer as well as community safety are critical considerations in law enforcement;*

*AND WHEREAS the Ontario Provincial Police have indicated they have a comprehensive diversity training program, however there may not be the same resources available across the entire province for smaller Police Services;*

*AND WHEREAS there is concern in the public about the boundaries of use of force, such as neck restraints, and oversight;*

*AND WHEREAS there isn't clarity on a common bar on diversity and empathy training or on use of force and oversight;*

*THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor write to the Solicitor General to encourage common training requirements for all members of Police Services in Ontario as it relates to diversity, empathy and use of force;*

*AND THAT the Solicitor General provide clarity on police oversight going forward given the anticipated changes to legislation to ensure effective accountability continues;*

*AND THAT annual updates or refresher courses be mandatory to ensure our Police Services have the best and current information available to them;*

*AND THAT THE TOWN request that the use of force protocols be reviewed to ensure they are safe and would meet current standards, and then shared across the province;*

*AND THAT THE TOWN circulate this resolution to all Ontario municipalities seeking their support.*

**"Carried"**